



How Much Water is Out There

- Of all the water on the planet, 97% of the earth's water is salt water in the oceans and seas, 3% of the earth's water is freshwater.
- 77% of all the freshwater on the planet is locked-up on polar icecaps: 85% of the frozen freshwater is in the Antarctic icecap, 15% of the frozen freshwater is in the northern polar icecap and glaciers.
- 22% of all the freshwater on the planet is underground. Half of the groundwater on the planet is accessible within half a mile of the earth's surface, the other half is deeper and is considered inaccessible.
- Of the remaining 1% of the earth's freshwater not underground or frozen in icecaps, 89.8% is found in freshwater lakes, 9.3% floats above the ground in the atmosphere as clouds and humidity, and only the remaining 9/10ths of 1% of the earth's fresh water flows in the world's rivers and streams.
- Of the mere sliver of fresh water present on the earth's surface in rivers, lakes and streams, 20% of that is found in just one source: Lake Baikal in southeastern Siberia.
- Only 0.3% of the world's water is useable, accessible fresh water -- a very tiny portion indeed.
- 75% of the available freshwater in the Lower 48 states occurs east of the Mississippi River.
- Fourteen western U.S. states, including Colorado, split just 14% of the available freshwater resources in the U.S.
- Of all of Colorado's available surface water, 80% naturally occurs west of the Continental Divide, only 20% occurs to the east.